

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-38 and 45, and allowed claims 39-44 and 46. By this Response, Applicants have cancelled claims 12-22 and 45 without prejudice. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-11, 23-44, and 46 will remain pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Obviousness-Typed Double Patenting

In the Final Office Action, claims 1-38 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent No. 6,667,879. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's interpretations and assertions, Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to overcome the Examiner's obviousness-type double patenting rejection and to expedite prosecution to allowance. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the double patenting rejection and allow claims 1-38.

Rejections Under Sections 102 and 103

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 12-15, 17-20, 22, and 45 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by the Mitchell et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,305,180; hereinafter "Mitchell"). Additionally, the Examiner rejected dependent claims 16 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in view of Mitchell and the Tirrell et al. reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,546) or the Lwee reference (U.S. Patent No. 5,299,089), respectively. With respect to these rejections under Section 102 or Section 103, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's interpretation of Mitchell, Lwee or Tirrell, or with the application of these references against the pending claims. Nonetheless, to expedite prosecution of the present application to allowance, Applicants have cancelled claims 12-22 and 45 without prejudice. Accordingly, because claims 12-22 and 45 are no

longer pending, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections of these claims are no longer germane.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims, that is, claims 1-11, 23-44, and 46, are patentable and in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in regard to the present patent application.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims should be in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve any other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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